CLAIMS

1. A device for use in acquiring address information at a link in a telecommunication network, the device comprising:

a connection for the telecommunication network;

a processing system operable to receive a data stream through the connection and determine the address information contained in the data stream based on the occurrence of a flag in a message signal unit (MSU) contained in the data stream;

a display operatively connected to the processing system, the display operable to display the address information; and

an arrangement for supplying power to the display and the processing system from a self-contained power source.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the address information comprises:

an origination point code; and

a destination point code.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein the processing system is further operable to determine an application part based on a specified field within the MSU, and wherein the display is further operable to display the application part.

4. The device of claim 2 wherein the MSU is a signaling system seven (SS7) MSU.

5. Apparatus for use in acquiring address information at a link in a telecommunication network, the apparatus comprising:

means for connection for the telecommunication network;

means for receiving a data stream through the means for connection;

means for determining the address information contained in the data stream based on the occurrence of a flag in a message signal unit (MSU) contained in the data stream; and

means for displaying the address information, the means for displaying operatively connected to the means for determining.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising means to determine and display an application part.

7. A method of presenting address information at a link in a telecommunication network, the method comprising:

receiving a data stream;

detecting the occurrence of a flag in the data stream, the flag indicating a beginning of a message signal unit (MSU) contained within the data stream;

collecting address bits based on a positioning of the address bits within the MSU relative to the flag;

parsing the address bits to determine the address information; and

displaying the address information.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the parsing of the address bits is accomplished at least in part by determining an origination point code and a destination point code contained within the address information.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

collecting application part bits from a specified field within the MSU;

determining an application part based on the application part bits; and

displaying the application part.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the MSU is a signaling system seven (SS7) MSU.

11. Apparatus for presenting address information at a link in a telecommunication network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a data stream;

means for detecting the occurrence of a flag in the data stream, the flag indicating a beginning of a message signal unit (MSU) contained within the data stream;

means for collecting address bits based on a positioning of the address bits within the MSU relative to the flag;

means for parsing the address bits to determine the address information; and

means for displaying the address information.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising:

means for collecting application part bits from a specified field within the MSU;

means for determining an application part based on the application part bits; and

means for displaying the application part.